LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 30|Sravana 8, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

UNDER WEIGHT SUPPLY OF PETROL AND L.P.G. IN DELHI

*204. **SHRI KARIYA MUNDA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Petrol pumps and LPG Agencies are making under-weight supply of petrol and LPG to consumers of Delhi;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any raids in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) : (a) to (d) : Periodic inspections have been conducted by oil marketing companies and Delhi Administration. Suitable action has been taken wherever defaults have been established.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked about the number of raids conducted and the hon. Minister replied that periodic inspections were conducted. It is their daily routine. They will continue to have the same to monitor the developments taking place in their departments. But under the present day situation it will not be possible to verify whether the petrol pumps are supplying petrol short of actual measurement and the gas agencies making irregular supply by merely conducting quarterly or half yearly inspections. I have asked all these points in my question but he has not given a correct reply. In his reply the hon. Minister stated that it was a routine work and periodic inspections were conducted. I agree that periodic inspections will continue to be conducted in future also.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : If at all any raids were conducted, I would like to know the number thereof and places at which these raids were conducted.

MR. SPEAKER : You want to know the number and places at which raids were conducted in Delhi ?

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : I would like to know about all the raids that have been conducted whether five times or ten times.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : During 1990-91, the four oil companies whose jurisdiction was over Delhi area had conducted 2464 raids and inspections on the 237 motor spirit HSD retail outlets and 207 LPG dealers in the Union Territory of Delhi. These consist of 1310 regular inspections about which the hon. Member mentioned, apart from 851 surprise inspections and 303 joint inspections. On the basis of these inspections, action as per law has been taken in all the detected cases of malpractices which were 13 in the case of motor spirit and 3 established in the case of LPG.

In addition, the Weights and Measures Department of the Delhi Administration have conducted 761 inspections of retail outlets from January 1990 to December 1990, 829 inspections from January 1991 to June 1991, 215 inspections of LPG agencies from January 1990 to December 1990 and 185 inspections from January

1991 to June 1991. Prosecutions have been launched and penalty imposed in 81 cases of retail outlets and 118 cases of LPG agencies during this period.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : The hon. Minister has stated that raids have been conducted a number of times and action is being taken against many people. But my question is about the steps Government practices which the retail dealers or LPG committed in delivery of gas cylinders and as also delay of one or two months in the delivery of LPG cylinders.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, very strict marketing guidelines have been issued by the marketing companies. These guidelines consist of all the possible malpractices which the retail dealers or LPG agencies can conceivably indulge in and these include forced sale of LPG stoves, for instance, delay in the distribution of gas cylinders, delay in submitting reports to the Corporation, etc.

Basically, as far as LPG is concerned, as the hon. Member very rightly observed, the malpractices cannot be stopped by periodic inspections alone. Action is also taken by the oil companies on the basis of consumer complaints which we encourage. On the basis of the consumer complaints we make investigations and inspections. If there is any malpractice, we have a series of graded punitive action starting with a warning and ending with termination of the gas agency or retail outlet, as the case may be.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : The hon. Minister was explaining about malpractices in the LPG dealership and other things. I learn that during Shri V. P. Singh's period and Shri Chandra Shekhar's period lot of malpractices were indulged in in providing LPG dealership and petrol pumps, according to the whims and fancies of the Ministers deviating from the policies and principles and a number of people were given LPG dealership and petrol pumps. What is the policy of this Government ? Are they going to follow suit, like Shri V. P. Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar ? Are they going to formulate a separate policy for giving the LPG dealership and petrol pumps ? I want a categorical answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. The question is disallowed.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just said that investigations are conducted on the basis of consumers' complaints and punitive action starting with warning and ending with termination of gas agency is taken. In this connection, I would like to know about the number of complaints that have been received in Delhi, the number of agencies that were terminated out of them, the number of cases in which warnings been issued and the number of cases in which prosecution proceedings have been started, during the last one year. I would also like to know the number of consumers' complaints they have received during the last one year and how many of them were found correct. Licences of how many petrol pumps or L.P.G. agencies were suspended or cancelled ?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR . I will not be able to readily furnish you the number of consumer complaints. But more than one hundred cases of suspension of licences have been there during this period and two specific cases were there where the licences were terminated in the last six months, the Delhi Gas Employees Cooperation and Patel Nagar General Stores. This is an on-going process. If the hon. Member wants more detailed information, I can furnish him later.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 205.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : There was no answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : I have disallowed that question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK.

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT.

BLACK MARKETING OF PETROL, DIESEL AND LPG IN EASTERN U.P.

*206. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the district-wise details of the action taken or being taken by the Government against petrol, diesel and LPG dealers who are selling or have been found selling petroleum products in black-market in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) : Black-marketing of petrel, diesel or LPG was not found during the inspections by the Oil Companies. Information about inspections and action taken by the State Government is being collected.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, I had given notice of the question in writing 20 days in advance. In reply to this question he has stated that during the inspections by the companies not a single case of corruption was detected. Adulteration of kerosene with petrol, irregularities in measurement and over charging is very common and such complaints are continuously being received from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This thing has also been published in newspapers. There are seven to eight districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh from where such malpractices have been reported. Similarly water has always been found in gas cylinders. While water is found in gas cylinders or cylinders are supplied under-weight, besides black marketing to such an extent that 4 months back the cylinders were sold at the rate of Rs. 300 each. I am surprised that though I had sent the notice of the question 21 days in advance, the hon. Minister is replying that not a single case of malpractice came to the notice of the officers of the company during the course of their inspections.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your question.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a firm called R. K. B. K. in my constituency in Ghazipur district and in Varanasi there is a firm belonging to one Sabharwal. Both these firms are openly indulging in all sorts of malpractices. A Sub-Inspector of Police detected a case in the firm of Sabharwal in Varanasi. The Sub-Inspector was offered a sum of Rs. 1 lakh which he refused to accept. The Sub-Inspector was suspended and he is still under suspension. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of such cases ? Similarly licence of a gas agency at Sigra in Varanasi has been terminated ? Was it done without the knowledge of the hon. Minister ? I would like to know whether he will initiate action against those officers who furnished wrong information to him and whether information regarding these irregularities would be placed on the Table of the House ?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member's question was specific to Eastern Uttar Pradesh and was specific to the detection of malpractice and black-marketing in petroleum products. Therefore, in the answer we have said that in spite of the inspections we had conducted, no specific case of black-marketing was found or established. We did not say that we have not detected any irregularities.

During the last six months, we had conducted a total number of 1900 inspections of retail outlets in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and five irregularities.. (*Interruptions*)